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Message Text

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21
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OMB-01 AID-05 ACDA-05 /076 W
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R 090835Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9967
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3295

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, KS
SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT OPPOSITION COMPROMISE: JOINT
RESOLUTION LIKELY

REF: (A) SEOUL 2563 (B) SEOUL 2933

SUMMARY: GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION AGREE IN PRINCIPG
TO JOINT ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ON NATIONAL SECURITY. NDP
IS REFRAINING FROM ANTI-GOVERNMENT CRITICISM WHILE
WAITING FOR DECISION ON PRESIDENT PAK/KIM YONG-SAM
MEETING BUT INSISTS IN PRIVATE ITS POSITION ON
NECESSITY OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT REMAINS UNCHANGED.
END SUMMARY.

1. WITH BACKGROUND OF CONCERN OVER VIETNAM FALL AND
UNCERTAINTY NORTH KOREAN INTENTIONS, GOVERNMENT AND
OPPOSITION PARTY FLOOR LEADERS ANNOUNCED MAY 8
AGREEMENT TO CONDUCT SPECIAL NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
SESSION WHICH WILL ADOP RESOLUTION ON NATIONAL SECURITY.
PRESS QUOTES DRP FLOOR LEADER AS SAYING RESOLUTION
WILL "WARN" NORTH KOREA AGAINST MISCALCULATED
PROVOCATION, CALL ON U.S. TO ABIDE BY COMMITMENT,
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AND REQUEST U.N. TO "DO SOMETHING" FOR PEACE ON

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KOREAN PENINSULA. SESSION REPORTEDLY COULD BEGIN
BY MAY 21.

2. AGREEMENT FOLLOWED WEEK LONG NEGOTIATION DURING
WHICH NDP DEMANDED OPEN INTERPELLATIONS ON POLITICAL
AND ECONOMIC ISSUES. COMPROMISE REACHED CALLS FOR
CLOSED DOOR INTERPELLATIONS AND PASSAGE JOINT RESOLUTION,
WITH SUBSEQUENT ASSEMBLY SESSION TO INCLUDE REGULAR INTER-
PELLATIONS AND CONSIDERATION OF GOVT BILL RESTRICTING
ACTIVITIES OF RELEASED COMMUNISTS (REF A).

3. AS BACKGROUND TO COMPROMISE NDP DEPUTY FLOOR LEADER
HWANG NAK-CHU TOLD EMBOFF THAT NDP FEELS STRONGLY NEED
TO TRANSMIT CLEAR SIGNAL TO NORTH THAT DOMESTIC DISSENT
DOES NOT PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR AGGRESSION. AT SAME
TIME NDP IS AWARE GOVERNMENT NEEDS OPPOSITION
PARTICIPATION IF RESOLUTION IS TO HAVE ANY SIGNIFICANCE.
THUS NDP FEELS IT IS IN RELATIVELY STRONG BARGAINNG POSITION
CONCERNING ASSEMBLY E3,$-.

4. HOWEVER, HWANG AND NDP SPOKESMAN YI TAEK-TON HAVE
RECENTLY EMPHASIZED TO US THAT DESPITE MORATORIUM ON
EXCESSIVE CRITICISM OF REGIME, PRESENT NDP POSTURE OF
DIALOGUE IS TEMPORARY NECESSITY; BASIC NDP POSITION
THAT AMENDMENT YUSHIN CONSTITUTION IS NECESSARY FOR
NATIONAL UNITY REMAINS UNCHANGED, AND ANTI-REGIME
ACTIVITIES WILL RESUME WHEN SECURITY
VTSATION PERMITS
OR IF PRESIDENT FLATLY REJECTS NDP PRESIDENT KIM
YONG-SAM'S REQUEST FOR MEETING (REF B).

5. SEPTEL REPORTS ON PRESENT GENERAL DECLINE IN DOMESTIC
POLEMICS.
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